

Exploring Students' Experiences of Learning in Outdoor Places on a University Campus

Trudy Ambler

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
trudy.ambler@mq.edu.au

Rhian Webb

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
rhian.wbb@mq.edu.au

Eloise Hummell

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
Eloise.hummell@mq.edu.au

Greg Robertson

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
greg.robertson@mq.edu.au

Steve Bailey

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
steve.bailey@mq.edu.au

The creation and renovation of learning spaces is currently a priority for educators working in higher education. While indoor learning environments continue to develop, one place rarely considered as integral to learning, teaching and research is the outdoor campus. The research reported in this paper used photographic images and autobiographical stories to explore the contribution of the outdoor campus to student learning. The findings indicate that students, who frequented outdoor campus places and made use of the facilities and the landscape, were afforded opportunities for holistic and transformative learning that contributed to a sense of well being and belonging. The outdoor campus is a precious resource because it influences the overall student learning experience and impacts on the quality of graduates.